

*Voices Support for UN Security Council's Passage of Multilateral Sanctions Resolution; Urges House and Senate Conferees to Complete Work on Sanctions Legislation*

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WASHINGTON, DC – In seeking to prevent Iran, a state-sponsor of terrorism, from attaining a nuclear weapons capability, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) came out in strong support today for the UN Security Council's passage of a multilateral sanctions package against Iran.

"Iran cannot be permitted to acquire nuclear weapons, as this would pose a direct threat to our forces in the region and our ally Israel while potentially triggering a regional arms race. I believe that the Obama Administration took the proper initial steps in engaging with Iran diplomatically last fall. It did so by working with the UN to offer Iran a chance to participate in negotiations about its nuclear activities and intentions, or face new international sanctions for not making sufficient progress toward greater transparency," said the Congressman.

"While Iran failed to live up to the stated terms, this was nonetheless an important effort, because it succeeded in rallying international pressure on Iran to cease its nuclear activities, as we can see from today's passage of this sanctions resolution," said the Congressman.

The resolution prohibits nations from selling Iran eight categories of conventional weapons, including tanks, attack helicopters, and missile systems. It calls on nations to board ships on the high seas to search for contraband items headed to or from Iran. The resolution prohibits Iran from acquiring foreign commercial interests in uranium mining or other nuclear activity and from purchasing foreign nuclear missile technology. Additionally, it freezes the assets of entities who contribute to Iran's clandestine nuclear activities or that are controlled by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

"While the military option can never be taken off the table in preventing Iranian proliferation of a nuclear weapons capability, I strongly support this unprecedented effort by the United States and international community. Although these new, more stringent sanctions alone are unlikely to force the Iranian leadership to abandon their nuclear weapons programs, their passage will trigger other unilateral sanctions by the United States and the European Union in the energy and financial sectors, among others. To that end, I urge Representative Howard Berman and Senator Chris Dodd to complete reconciliation of House and Senate Iran sanctions bills that are currently in conference, and that I voted for, as soon as possible, in order to make clear the increasing cost of pursuing a nuclear capability and thereby help force Iran to divert from their dangerous and unacceptable course."

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, the Congressman was the first Director of Deep Blue, the*

*Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the Global War on Terrorism. He served as President Clintons Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*